

**Polythene bags spoiling coastal beauty**

1428. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether polythene bags have endangered the beauty of the sea coast and marine life;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to check it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is not aware of any scientific study on polythene bags endangering the beauty of the sea-coast and marine life.

(b) and (c) To discourage littering by plastic polybags and other plasti packaging materials and to encourage their recycling, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have brought out the recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999. These rules specify that minimum thickness for carrybags made of virgin or recycled plastics shall be 20 microns. These rules also prohibit the use of carrybags and containers made of recycled plastics for storing, carrying, dispensing or packaging of foodstuffs. In addition, several State Governments including coastal States like Goa have notified their own laws to check littering of polybags.

**Notifying the Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation) Rules**

1429. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to come out with notifying the Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation) Rules; if so, the details of the Rules, if notified;

(b) the details of the international convention signed in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for the inordinate delay?